

Public Consultation

What is it about?

The current Public Consultation / Impact Assessment is a follow-up on the successful European Citizens Initiatives STOP FINNING - STOP THE TRADE. 1.1 million Europeans helped to bring the demand for a trade ban on shark fins to the political agenda of the European Union. As a next step, the EU announced an impact assessment on the environmental, social, and economic consequences of a shark fin ban in the European Union.

Why should I take part?

Besides experts (“Call for Evidence”), the wider public from all over the world is asked for their opinions too (“Public Consultation”). The more people take part in the Public Consultation, the more EU leaders will realise that this is an issue of huge importance to the wider public.

What can I expect?

The online questionnaire consists of an introduction and 4 pages with questions. The expected time required is at least 20-30 minutes.

How can I take part?

➔ Click this link: <https://bit.ly/3IBIIM5>

➔ On the webpage, click **Respond to the questionnaire**

➔ Log-in with your EU log-in.

If you do not have a log-in, click on “Create an account” or sign in with eID / Facebook / Google.

You will be asked to fill in your name and email-address. A confirmation email will be sent to the email address you provided.

Open the link in the email to create a password. Once the password has been repeated, you will be forwarded to the questionnaire page.

Until when can I take part?

➔ **Deadline: 4 June 2024**

This questionnaire asks for public opinion, so please express how you see the issues. If you would like some ideas on how to answer, see our suggestions in the following pages:

EU Login
One account, many EU services

English (en)

EUSurvey requires you to authenticate

Sign in to continue

Sign in with the EU Login Mobile app

Or

Enter your e-mail address or unique identifier

[Create an account](#) **Next >**

Or

If you do not wish to create an EU Login account, you can sign in by using one of the following third-party sign-in options ("Sign-in Service"). [Read more](#)

[Sign in with your eID](#)

[Sign in with Facebook](#)

[Sign in with Google](#)

Page 1: About You

- ➔ Fill in your personal data.
- ➔ Decide if you want your contribution to be published anonymously or publicly.
- ➔ Go to the **Next** page.

About you


* Language of my contribution

* I am giving my contribution as

* First name

* Surname

* Email (this won't be published)

* Country of origin 

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

* **Contribution publication privacy settings** 

Anonymous

The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself.

Public

Your name, the type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your country of origin and your contribution will be published.

*

I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

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Page 2: Need for an EU action

1. Considering the existing EU shark conservation and management measures[1], is there a need for an additional EU action to better protect and manage sharks? Please choose the statement that you consider the most correct.

- The current EU measures are fully sufficient.
- The current EU measures are relatively sufficient.
- The current EU measures are neither sufficient nor insufficient.
- The current EU measures are rather not sufficient.
- The current EU measures are not sufficient at all.
- I have no opinion.

You may justify your reply.

500 character(s) maximum

0 out of 500 characters used.

- ➔ Tick that current EU measures are not sufficient at all.
- ➔ You may justify your reply, but you don't have to. If you want, we suggest the following text with some additional arguments:

The current "Fins Naturally Attached" regulation states that fins may not be removed from the body of the shark before landing. This means that loose fins - from potential threatened or protected species - can still be traded and exported because of poor enforcement. To close this loophole, additional trade legislation is needed to ban the export, import and transit of loose shark fins.

Text ideas can be found [here](#) (short version) or [here](#) (detailed arguments), from page 17 of the document.

Page 3: Policy options

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For this part of the questionnaire, you will be asked to **grade the consequences** of policy options 2 to 7 - both within and outside the EU. While the exact impacts and consequences are different from region to region, the general outcomes, and how the pros and cons balance out, are the same whether you look at conditions inside or outside the EU.

In the following, you will be guided toward the grades that work in favour of the intention of the initiative. You can choose between:

Very negative	Moderately negative	Neutral	Moderately positive	Very positive	No opinion
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Moreover, you may provide further comments on the expected internal consequences of policy options. But you don't have to. You can find inspiration for your replies in [this document](#) or on this [website](#).



2. What environmental, social and economic consequences would you expect, within and outside of the EU, if the EU action consisted of maintaining and **implementing in the most efficient possible manner the current EU ban on finning on board?**

➔ Both **2.1 Within the EU AND 2.2 Outside the EU**

All Environmental consequences	Very negative
All Social consequences	Neutral
All Economic consequences (except Tourism)	Neutral
Economic consequences - Tourism	Very negative

➔ You may provide further comments (optional). Here is an explanation to better understand this policy option:

Finning bans have been implemented in many parts of the World for the past two decades and they have proved to be unenforceable. Putting more effort into implementing finning bans will not avoid this issue. It is a non-solution! We need a stronger regulation that makes enforcement easier.

3. What environmental, social and economic consequences would you expect, within and outside of the EU, if the EU action consisted of **reaching out to international partners to promote a worldwide finning ban, the improvement of management measures, and the reduction in global shark (fins) consumption?**

➔ Both **3.1 Within the EU AND 3.2 Outside the EU**

All Environmental consequences	Very negative
All Social consequences	Neutral
All Economic consequences (except Tourism)	Neutral
Economic consequences - Tourism	Very negative

➔ You may provide further comments (optional). Here is an explanation to better understand this policy option:

Finning bans have been implemented in many parts of the World for the past two decades and they have proved to be unenforceable, stronger regulation is needed (see explanation policy 2). Improving management measures is a great goal in addition to a fin trade ban, but not as a solitary solution. Reducing consumption is being pursued by many advocacy groups. It is doubtful the EU Commission could pursue effective public campaigns to affect consumer behaviour. Also, the major beneficiaries of the fin trade is in the intermediate link, where traders make the most money. They are the ones creating an increasing market for fins.

4. What environmental, social and economic consequences would you expect, within and outside of the EU, if the EU action consisted of putting in place a **certification scheme for import and export of shark and shark products** confirming that they have been obtained in a sustainable way (complementing the existing certifications under the [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora](#) and under the EU rules on [illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing](#))?

➔ Both [4.1 Within the EU](#) AND [4.2 Outside the EU](#)

All Environmental consequences	Very negative
All Social consequences	Neutral
All Economic consequences (except Tourism)	Neutral
Economic consequences - Tourism	Very negative

➔ You may provide further comments (optional). Here is an explanation to better understand this policy option:

This proposal seems to be very unrealistic. The problem is that it is nearly impossible to identify loose shark fins, so how can it be determined that they have been harvested sustainably or from a species that is not considered threatened or even protected? Determining what shark fishery is considered sustainable has been unsuccessful and is highly subjective. This option is another non-solution that will be unenforceable.

5. What environmental, social and economic consequences would you expect, within and outside of the EU, if the EU action consisted of **negotiating bilateral agreements with the main shark product consuming and trading partners** to obtain their commitment to sustainable supply of shark products?

➔ Both [5.1 Within the EU](#) AND [5.2 Outside the EU](#)

All Environmental consequences	Very negative
All Social consequences	Neutral
All Economic consequences (except Tourism)	Neutral
Economic consequences - Tourism	Very negative

➔ You may provide further comments (optional). Here is an explanation to better understand this policy option:

The first step to understand what a sustainable shark consumption could even look like, is to ban fin trade and take the value out of loose fins. So, even if this policy was to be executed, it would have to be initiated by a fin trade ban and can not stand alone.

6. What environmental, social and economic consequences would you expect, within and outside of the EU, if the EU action consisted of an EU ban on exports and imports of loose shark fins?

→ Both 6.1 Within the EU AND 6.2 Outside the EU

All Environmental consequences	Very positive
All Social consequences (EXCEPT PUBLIC HEALTH)	Neutral
Social consequences - Public Health	Very positive
All Economic consequences (EXCEPT TOURISM)	Neutral
Economic consequences - Tourism	Very positive

→ You may provide further comments (optional). Here is an explanation to better understand this policy option:

Social and economic consequences (except for public health and tourism) are negative and positive and will balance out, considering that everything has long and short-term effects. Short-term financial losses will be balanced out by the long-term benefits to the health of the ocean and fisheries.

7. What environmental, social and economic consequences would you expect, within and outside of the EU, if the EU action consisted of striving for adoption of an international ban on trade in loose shark fins?

→ Both 7.1 Within the EU AND 7.2 Outside the EU

All Environmental consequences	Very positive
All Social consequences (EXCEPT PUBLIC HEALTH)	Neutral
Social consequences - Public Health	Very positive
All Economic consequences (EXCEPT TOURISM)	Neutral
Economic consequences - Tourism	Very positive

→ You may provide further comments (optional). Here is an explanation to better understand this policy option:

It would be extremely positive if the EU could take the leadership in an international trade ban because it would finally be a solution with a global effect. Anything less than a complete END to the fin trade will be an incremental improvement. Ending the trade in the EU is the right next step and a signal to the rest of the World. Following that up with proposals for an international ban would show that the EU Commission is capable and willing to solve global problems.

8. Your suggestion (optional)

What environmental, social and economic consequences would you expect, within and outside of the EU, if the EU takes another action that you would suggest?

➔ You can add your suggestion. But you don't have to.

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Page 4: Additional comments and document upload

You may comment here on any potential impacts that might have not been addressed in the above questionnaire:
1000 character(s) maximum

0 out of 1000 characters used.


Should you wish to provide any additional information (e.g., a position paper, a scientific report or peer-reviewed article), you can upload documents here.

Please do not upload any documents that, due to intellectual property rights, should not be published by the European Commission as part of the consultation results. You may instead provide a full reference to any publications (e.g., peer-reviewed articles, etc.) that you want to bring to the European Commission's attention.

If the documents that you upload refer to a specific question in the questionnaire, please include the question number in the file name (e.g., question4_TITLE.pdf).

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Only files of the type pdf, txt, doc, docx, odt, rtf are allowed.

 Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

➔ You can add a comment about an impact that has not yet been addressed.

➔ You can upload additional information, if you like.

➔ **Hit submit and you are done!**

Thank you so much for your help saving sharks!

